Encyclopaedia Aristasiana

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Fallacy of Tellurian Models

Aristasia is a whole culture that works entirely within its own terms of reference. It is not easy to understand from outside, but as one begins to grasp any one part, it sheds light on all the others. And so the process of understanding speeds up exponentially once it gets under way.

Think of it as visiting a different world.

When we encounter something new, we naturally ask "How does it relate to this or that thing that I already know?" That is the way we process knowledge. It is often helpful, but sometimes it can also be misleading.

In the case of late-Tellurian "alternative cultures" it is very helpful, since all of them are indeed variations on common late-Tellurian themes.

In the case of Aristasia it is usually misleading, because Aristasian culture has very little relation to Tellurian culture, and where parallels exist they are with traditional Tellurian cultures (which come closer to the Universal) rather than with the developments of the post-Eclipse (late 1960s and onwards) culture, which have no equivalent in Aristasia.

I think it is true to say that new girls learning about Aristasia begin by seeking parallels with Tellurian phenomena and, as they learn more, drop them one by one as they realise that they are of very limited relevance (even though they may have helped them to form their very early impressions, if only by contrast).

See also:

Pigeon-holing

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